

LONDON**Outlook for Wilson**

The *Times* (London) summed up the prospect for Britain's new government: "[Mr. Wilson] will be heading the fifth Labor Administration, returned by a percentage [44%] of the aggregate poll which is only a fraction larger than his party's share five years ago; having an absolute majority in the Commons almost at the vanishing point; and dependent for its day-to-day viability on the forbearance of a tiny group of Liberal

Abroad

MPs which grossly under-represents the popular Liberal vote. The expectation of life for Mr. Wilson's first Government is no greater than that of Lord Attlee's second, which rested on an absolute majority of six and kept going for twenty months. . . . The nation's indecisive and regionally various verdict has issued in the probability of a Labor Government part-paralyzed by a hopelessly thin majority, and the postponement of the resolute reform that the economy requires."

SALISBURY, RHODESIA**Independence for Christmas?**

The result of the British election (Oct. 15) combines with Northern Rhodesia's transformation into independent Zambia (Oct. 24) to press Prime Minister Ian Smith toward a speedy decision on Rhodesia's political fate. If the Tories had won in Britain, Mr. Smith might have hoped for some sort of negotiated compromise with London, given time. But the Labor victory has put into the key positions affecting Rhodesia exactly those persons whom white Rhodesians, with good reason, regard as their implacable enemies: Barbara Castle (who was asked to leave Salisbury a few years ago after she made a civil rights demonstration) as Minister of Overseas Development; Arthur Bottomley as Minister of Commonwealth Relations; Patrick Gordon Walker at the Foreign Office; Sir Hugh Foot back at the UN post from which he formerly resigned because he thought British policy too soft on white Rhodesians. Ian Smith can hope for nothing from this socialist phalanx. The internal Rhodesian situation can only disintegrate if he delays for long. Therefore he will probably decide to move before the Labor Government is fully consolidated. Observers in Salisbury believe it likely he will declare independence, unilaterally, about the turn of the year.

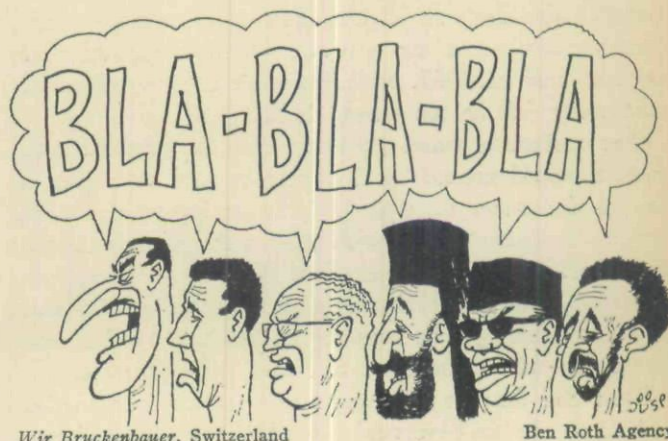
GENEVA**No Dice**

For the second time in three months, a supposedly technical conference under UN auspices has been broken up, before it got officially started, by the African bloc. In July it was a gathering of educational experts. This time (Oct. 19) it was a carefully prepared meeting, expected to last a month or more, charged with the task of allocating medium wave broadcasting frequencies on the

African continent. In both cases, the African bloc moved—illegally—to exclude South Africa and Portugal. With the help of Arab and Communist votes, this got a majority. The Western delegates then withdrew. The Afro-Arabs tried, each time, to pretend to carry on for a day or so, and then quit, with grandiose rhetoric. Among the consequences: each time, a million dollars in preparatory costs down the drain; a growing conviction that international technical cooperation—the one major field of UN positive achievement—will become impossible if technical meetings are henceforth to be turned into platforms for political demonstrations.

PARIS**In A Nutshell**

Those puzzled by the meaning of the Sino-Soviet conflict will be grateful to French Communist theoretician, Roland Leroy, for his succinct clarification: "The Chinese leaders caricature the dialectical law of the unity of opposites into a mechanistic conception destined, in the name of



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the so-called 'concept of unity dividing into duality,' to furnish a semblance of theoretical justification for splitting activity in the international movement."

EL AAJUN**Why?**

Shrunken Rio del Oro, now known as the province of Spanish Sahara, is a desert region about the size of Britain, with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants. Its only known resource is a phosphate deposit. Oil prospecting was carried out several years ago, but then abandoned. Against this background, the Spanish Government, which has a hard enough time making ends meet, has poured \$150 million into the development of a capital, El Aaiun, formerly a small garrison post, twenty miles back from the seashore. It is now much like a smaller Spanish city, with policemen, bars, a supermarket, radio station featuring popular music, newspaper, big Catholic church and a casino. All materials and equipment had to be brought in from the sea by amphibious vehicle. There is nothing to motivate the presence of a city where El Aaiun is. The soil is barren. There are no accessible physical resources. El Aaiun seems to be a pure idea in the Quixote tradition.

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